

OPC Bulletin

Moscow Coverage Skewed

BY PETER GALUSZKA

Business Week Moscow bureau chief Galuszka, a long-time OPC member, filed this dispatch for the Bulletin:

Think of today's Russia and what comes to mind? Mafia hits? Isotopes in suitcases? Tanks blasting the White House? Rich 20-year-old biznezmnen in purple and green suits? A country ready to twirl completely out of control and bring on the next Hitler?

Sure, all of the above are elements of what's happening or could happen in Russia today. But, reality is a bit more complicated. A private sector is emerging and some measure of political stability has been established. That's why the Western media needs to shed some of those sexy sound bites and start telling the bigger story of one of recent history's most profound national transformations.

The changes—good, bad or unclear—are happening with incredible speed. So fast, in fact, that many of us Moscow correspondents and our state-side editors become so confused we fall back on some tired clichés about what Russia is all about. Yeltsin looks tired or misses an appointment? Look for a shake-up and a return to the hard-line. A picture of an old babushka? They

(Continued on page 6)

Time Foreign Policy Experts Slam Clinton

Speaking just days after the U.S. intervention in Haiti, three of *Time* magazine's foreign affairs team criticized the Clinton Administration's foreign policy as one driven more by domestic political considerations than any set of guiding principles.

World editor Johanna McGeary, senior foreign policy writer Bruce Nelan and U.N. correspondent Bonnie Angelo made their remarks before the Overseas Press Club's Sept. 21 luncheon in the McGraw-Hill Building. In attendance were representatives from the European Union and the governments of Canada, Chile, Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. Moderating the discussion was ABC News correspondent Karen Burnes, who covered the Gulf War from Baghdad.

McGeary said the usual reasons cited for intervention in foreign hot spots, including strategic, humanitarian or economic interests, really were not the most important. American presi-

(Continued on page 2)

OPC Protests Assaults on Press

BY NORMAN A. SCHORR
AND DINAH LEE

Two editors were killed in Cambodia. Journalists on an opposition newspaper in Turkey were jailed. A newspaper publisher in Nigeria was arrested. Three weekly news magazines in Indonesia were shut down.

These were some of the recent assaults on the press that drew attention

and protest from the OPC Freedom of the Press Committee.

Following are excerpts from some of the OPC appeals and protests:

**TO: PRESIDENT SÜLEYMAN
DEMIREL OF TURKEY**

"We are most disturbed to learn that your government has found a new

(Continued on page 7)



CRACKDOWN—Riot troops in Indonesia attack demonstrators protesting a government ban on three newswEEKlies. OPC also protested the ban, as well as the arrests of the demonstrators.

REUTERS

PANEL (Continued from page 1)

dents, she said, "go in where they can succeed." But it's become increasingly difficult to pull off a successful intervention because Americans only want "short and sweet" actions that are, in effect, over before they begin. "The real reason we're in Haiti," she said, "is Bill Clinton's credibility. Bill Clinton had to make a stand somewhere. He had to prove he was a tough guy."

The U.S. charged into Haiti "without having a clue about how the society functions," said Nelan. The most compelling need to go in was domestic political pressures, particularly upcoming mid-term elections. "At the White House," said Nelan, "foreign policy is seen in terms of what to do to make our guy look good."

The fact that the United Nations was not the prime force in the Haiti intervention is what drew criticism from Angelo. With its offices spread out in nine cities around the world and with peacekeepers in 70 locations, the U.N. desperately needs to better define its mission in the world and to reform its own ability to achieve that mission, she said.

The panelists agreed that neither Haiti, Rwanda, Bosnia, nor Somalia would be seen as the defining foreign policy tests of the Clinton presidency. The biggest challenge may be North Korea's nuclear program. "His real test will come then," said Nelan.

Companies represented at the lunch included GTE and NYNEX as well as Daewoo, Hyundai, Pohang, Sunkyong and Korea Express.

World Press Disapproved Haiti Invasion by 2 to 1

BY LARRY MARTZ

In mid-September, as President Bill Clinton was threatening to invade Haiti to oust Gen. Raoul Cedras and his junta, we at *World Press Review* conducted an Opinion Index to find out what the world press thought of the idea. Not surprisingly, the reaction was negative. But the margin was convincing: Among papers with an opinion on the issue, nearly two to one disapproved.

As the magazine's new editor, I launched the index this year to fill a gap: There hadn't been any systematic way to judge how the overseas press was reacting to major issues and events. It's not a survey or a poll, but a kind of Dow Jones index drawing on 50 newspapers around the world. We choose them for their opinion-leading influence, either national or international, and they represent a wide range
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Time world editor Johanna McGeary, right, senior writer Bruce Nelan and U.N. correspondent Bonnie Angelo.

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HAITI (Continued from page 2)

of ideologies in all parts of the world. We take the opinion of the newspaper itself, as expressed either in an editorial or a column known to reflect the editors' views.

In the Haiti case, 29 newspapers (58 percent of the sampling) either opposed an invasion or expressed strong reservations about it. Fifteen papers approved or had only mild reservations, and only six of the 50 hadn't commented on the issue by the time we asked.

Did the weight of the world's disapproval have anything to do with Clinton's decision to try another round of diplomacy, and send Jimmy Carter to make a deal with Cedras? I doubt it; the domestic polls certainly counted more heavily. But he had to know that his multinational cover for an invasion was already threadbare before he set out.

Opinion was strongest in the Western Hemisphere, where only two of 15 newspapers approved of the threatened invasion. Many editors objected to any interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign nation; others criticized Washington's "double standard" when it comes to using force. "If Haiti, why not Rwanda, or Bosnia, or Iraq, or Iran?" demanded the centrist *Age of Melbourne*. Still others simply feared a messy outcome.

"It would be natural for this president to decide to invade Haiti, depose a tinhorn regime, and leave the pieces in the hands of the international community," said Toronto's centrist *Globe and Mail*. Approving editorials were more resigned than gung-ho. "When it comes to dealing with butchers, there is often not much of a choice," said the independent *Nation of Bangkok*.

This is the third time we have used the *World Press Review* Opinion Index. We do it irregularly, whenever events seem to warrant. Previous soundings have found overseas opinion overwhelmingly against the NATO bombings of Bosnian Serb positions in April, and heavily critical of U.S. foreign policy in general at the time of Clinton's European tour in June.

Larry Martz, editor of *World Press Review*, was a writer and editor at *Newsweek* for 32 years. He is a governor of the *Overseas Press Club*.

President's Corner: ON CRISIS COVERAGE

BY BILL HOLSTEIN

A new drumbeat of criticism is building against Cable News Network's coverage of world hot spots, such as Haiti. The decision by CNN and the networks not to report on the departure of the U.S. invasion force sparked angry condemnations. Yet if they had carried the news, Haiti's military leaders would have been immediately tipped off, subjecting CNN in particular to criticism of entirely a different sort. Damned if they do, damned if they don't.

This *Washington Post* headline seems to sum it up: "Behind the CNN Factor. Lights! Cameras! Atrocities!" The ensuing article by Nik Gowing, diplomatic editor of ITN's Channel 4 News, London, was on the whole a defense of CNN. But the drumbeat can be heard in these words: "Most policy makers openly curse television coverage even though few of them have the time or inclination to watch it as much as most people assume. And most important, ministers and officials do not trust television. Not because it lies, but because they say it is over-emotional. It plays too much to the heart and not enough to the head. It also forces their agenda in directions they cannot control, and skews crisis management in ways they usually fail to predict."

James F. Hoge, Jr., editor of *Foreign Affairs*, also tackled the subject in a July/August article in his journal entitled "Media Pervasiveness." Thanks to CNN, "the capabilities of modern media to be immediate, sensational and pervasive are unsettling the conduct of foreign affairs." Hoge in the end defends CNN by arguing that Washington must define an international agenda, or have it defined by the media in default. But the drumbeat can be heard in the jab of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd against television reporters: "They are founding members of the 'something must be done' club."

Following the Haiti invasion in September, CNN Executive Vice President Ed Turner reacted to some of

the criticism in a letter to *The New York Times*, which had editorialized against CNN's decision to delay reporting about the Haiti invasion force. "We care as much as any print reporter, or editorial writer, about the responsibilities of a fully informed citizenry," Turner said. "However, our reality is that citizens everywhere can watch what we report as it is happening. Unlike the print process, our work is instantly available to global eyes: friend, foe, neutral alike..."

"Such defensive editorializing



Bill Holstein

seems to react to the assault we in the news business continue to face. Perhaps the O.J. Simpson factor is at play—too much of a bad thing, and thus to prove we are not intimidated, we need to go beyond aggressive, to prove our

own commitment. That is wrongheaded and harmful to our cause."

Is this the right way to frame the debate? Over the nearly 20 years I've been involved in international coverage, I've seen a clear trend toward a feeding-frenzy type of coverage of international events. Typically, television but also the wires, radio, newspapers, and magazines conduct a "buildup" of news about a particular foreign crisis. We've seen it in Bosnia, Somalia, Rwanda, Haiti, and elsewhere. If the U.S. government intervenes in one of these no-win situations, there is a brief glow of positive coverage.

Then when the sheer complexity and danger begins to become clear, the coverage turns. Now it's time to get out. Turn the channel. Move on to the next crisis.

It seems the goal should be sustained, on-going coverage of trends and events that have the most direct bearing

(Continued on page 7)

PEOPLE...with Al Kaff

HONG KONG: Carl Goldstein has stepped down as president of the Foreign Correspondents Club because of his departure from active journalism. In an article in the September issue of the FCC's *The Correspondent*, former vice president and new president Simon Holberton of the *Financial Times* said the Board decided that the FCC's great location at a cheap rent depended on its status as a club for the foreign media. Goldstein has taken a position with a Washington-based consultancy dealing with China.

NEW YORK: Reuters has appointed Andrew Nibley, an OPC board member of long standing, as executive vice president and editor in charge of new media. His previous position as editor, America, has been divided into two jobs. The first is vice president and financial editor, which is now held by Don Nordberg. In addition to managing Reuters' delivery of real-time market news, Nordberg has the added responsibility of managing the U.S. operations of Reuters' financial television, which is delivered to personal computers in trading rooms. Nibley's successor as news-side editor is Paul Eedle, previously Reuters bureau chief in Cairo.

Nathan (Nate) Polowetsky, long-time foreign editor of the Associated Press, died Aug. 7 at the age of 72. He joined the AP in 1944 and served the news agency until his death of an apparent heart attack. He held the key foreign editors position from 1977 to 1990. In the early part of his career, he served in Prague, London, Cairo, New Delhi, Tokyo, and Seoul.

PRAGUE: Alan Levy, an OPC member since 1960, has published a book entitled *The Wiesenthal File* about famed Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal. Originally from New York, Levy moved with his wife and two daughters to Czechoslovakia in 1967. He was expelled and deported to Vienna for his eyewitness account of the 1968 Soviet

invasion. After spending 20 years in Vienna writing for such publications as the *International Herald Tribune*, Levy returned to Prague in 1990 and became founding editor-in-chief of *The Prague Post*, an English-language weekly newspaper.

Levy will be visiting New York on a tour promoting his Weisenthal book. A luncheon with him (Dutch treat) will take place on Monday, Nov. 7 at 12:30 PM at The Tudor. For reservations call OPC Manager Sonya Fry, (212) 983-4655, by Nov. 1.

SEOUL: John (Jack) Burton, Seoul bureau chief for the *Financial Times*, has been elected president of the Seoul Foreign Correspondents Club for the 1994-95 term. Burton succeeded Diane Stormont of Reuters.

TOKYO: Reuters' Brian Williams has been transferred from New York to Tokyo. Williams was the editor of the club's *Dateline* publication in 1993.

VIETNAM: Charles W. "Bill" Henderson, a long-time OPC member, is working on a book about the end of the Vietnam War to be published April 30, 1995, the 20th anniversary of the war's dramatic ending. Based in Lawton,

Oklahoma, the former Marine PAO is in Vietnam currently writing a feature on the same subject for *Life* magazine. Henderson has located 10 of the group of 11 Marines who were on the roof of the U.S. Embassy on the last flight out of Saigon. The OPC will devote a program this spring to the 20 year anniversary and we expect Henderson to be there. In the meantime, his address is 1120 Northwest Oak Avenue, Lawton, OK. 73507. Fax is (405) 250-1933 and phone is (405) 250-1911.

WASHINGTON: About 150 people including old friends from the Tokyo press corps attended a memorial service for Clara Desfor, 83, in the National Press Club in Washington on Sept. 9. Wife of Max Desfor, who won a Pulitzer Prize in photography during the Korean War, Clara died on June 11 from injuries suffered a few days earlier in an auto accident.

Father James Colligan, who is based in Tokyo with a Catholic news agency and is a life member of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan, delivered the prayer. The program included remembrances from Tokyo press friends: Helen and Robert Hecox, Nancy and Henry Hartzenbusch, Russell and Rosemary Spurr, Tom Scully, Al and Diana Kaff, Joe Grace, Hal and Kazuko Drake, D. Lee and John Rich, Ed and Kim White, and Evelyn and Phil Brown.



Andrew Nibley

ANOTHER OPC AUTHOR

When OPC member Linda Goetz Holmes went to a dinner party in 1979 on Shelter Island, where she maintains a home, an offhand remark spurred her to write a book that won critical acclaim in Australia.

She met Cecil Dickson, an Australian, who chuckled when the rice was passed and said that he had eaten more than 3,800 bowls of rice while a Japanese prisoner during World War II.

"You know," he laughed, "I still enjoy rice!" Goetz spent more than a dozen years tracking down Dickson's letters to his family and friends and interviewing other survivors of the forced labor battalions that helped build the infamous Burma-Thailand

railway.

The result was *Four Thousand Bowls of Rice: A Prisoner of War Comes Home* (Allen & Unwin, St. Leonards, Australia) which is now available in the U.S.

The railway was immortalized in 1954 by Pierre Boulle's book, *The Bridge Over the River Kwai*, and there have been other books by Australians captured by advancing Japanese forces.

Published a year ago in Australia, the critics were generous in their praise.

"Ultimately this is an uplifting account of survival and liberation," said the *Sunday Age*.

Goetz, a former CBS editor, was honored at a reception at the Australian Consulate in New York in September. —H.L. Stevenson



Linda Goetz Holmes

LETTERS

RETHINKING INTERNATIONAL NEWS

In response to the President's Statement, I take your point about the declining commitment to international news in the U.S., especially among the biggest mainstream outlets. It has ever been thus, except during wartime. Our ignorance of what the world is up to and how it thinks is manifested in the level of the discussion whenever some crisis erupts—seemingly from nowhere.

The way in which foreign news is covered—business and political news in particular—might have something to do with the failure to keep a constant audience. I am always struck by how little effort is made to help the audience see the connections between their own lives and what happens overseas.

Maybe it's time to think about new ways of telling the news from overseas. It ought to be very sexy stuff, after all—exotic, often glamorous, often dramatic. Maybe the diminishing appetite for international news—and the diminishing budgets for covering it—signal the need for a reappraisal in the product-design departments at magazines, newspapers and TV networks.

Kevin McDermott
300 E. 71st St.
New York, N.Y. 10021

CORRESPONDENTS SHOT DOWN

I have been a non-resident member of the OPC for nearly 35 years. I was most favorably impressed with Bill Holstein's article in the September issue. Needless to say, I share his concern over the disintegration of some areas of our revered profession.

Since I retired as a foreign correspondent and executive with ABC News, I have turned out a book that I consider unique. Over a period of nearly 30 years, I have compiled a list of newsmen and women who have lost their lives on perilous foreign assignments.

My list begins with the 1935 Italo-Ethiopian war and runs through 1993. During that period, I list 248 Americans and foreigners who worked for American media who were killed on

overseas assignments or died from wounds and illnesses contracted on such assignments.

My book is entitled "Don't Kill the Messenger," and I invite the help of the club and its members in publicizing my book. Thank you.

Charles P. Arnot
610 South Granite Street, No. 12
Prescott, Arizona 86303-4275
Tel (602) 776-7190

APPEAL FROM GHANA

This letter is to express my gratitude, appreciation, and great concern shown by the Overseas Press Club of America, during the period of my detention under the notorious military regime in Ghana in 1991.

Almost a year and a half after my release, the security agency has returned most of my documents seized from me. This is how I got to know about your letter dated Feb. 28, 1992 and addressed to Flt-Lt. J.J. Rawlings demanding my release.

My main problem now is how to finance the restart of my newspaper because my typesetting machines were all damaged by the security agents.

I am therefore making a passionate appeal through you for any possible assistance in this regard.

George M. Naykene
Editor, The Christian Chronicle
Post Office Box 494, Dansoman Est.,
Accra, Ghana

APPEAL FROM CAMBODIANS

On June 11, 1994, Mr. Chhom Mongkol Thou, Editor-in-Chief of *Antakarkum* (Intervention) newspaper in Cambodia, was assassinated by the secret police of the Cambodian Royal Government under co-Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh, dominated by the former Khmer Rouge communist Hun Sen and Chea Sim's armed forces.

On Sept. 7, 1994, Mr. Nonn Chan, Editor-in-Chief of *Samleng Yuveak-chun Khmer* (Voice of the Cambodian Youth), was assassinated in broad daylight in the middle of the capital.

Mr. Thou and Mr. Chan printed several articles that criticized the Royal Government regarding corruption, injustice, misery, poverty, dictatorship, and poor leadership.

To this day, Cambodian journalists inside and outside the country as well

as some foreign journalists in Cambodia have been harassed and threatened.

Mr. Thou and Mr. Chan are each survived by their wives and five children. There is no life insurance, welfare or other public assistance available in Cambodia. It is an extreme burden and hardship for each widow to continue to raising her five children.

We would like to ask you and other American organizations to consider donations in their support. Thank you.

Bunthan Eang, Editor-in-Chief
Cambodian Press, P.O. Box 1896
Lowell, Mass. 01853-1896
Fax: (508) 441-2054
Phone: (508) 453-1617

STARS & STRIPES' SCHAPIRO DIES

My father Sid Schapiro was a member of the OPC for at least the past 30 years (and probably longer.) He died Saturday Sept. 3, 1994. He would have been 76 on Sept. 8.

He worked for *The Stars and Stripes* from 1943 until his retirement. He was in Germany and later in London as a correspondent from 1954 to 1956. He then returned to New York as supervisory editor of *The Stars & Stripes'* New York bureau.

Marilyn Schapin
41-08 42nd St.
Long Island, NY 11104
(718) 392-7678

WAR INQUIRY ANSWERED

(In the September *Bulletin*, Gary Green of Sheridan, Wyoming, asked for information about Lee Carson and the Colditz Castle. He got this answer.)

Spotted your letter in the latest *OPC Bulletin*, and am attaching my Lee Carson obit from the *NY Times* April 7, 1973. Her light—and it was an incandescent, fit to blind the eyes—went out at 51. She was married to Jay Reeves, a CIA fellow, and he survived her, although I don't know if he is still alive. She was a real rule-breaker and high-kicker, a dazzler and a daring one, the kind old International News Service always seemed to have.

Col. Barney Oldfield, USAF (Ret)
The Colonel Barney Oldfield
Organization Inc. (BOO, Inc.)
P.O. Box 1055, Beverly Hills, CA.

TOKYO CLUB: WORTH A VISIT

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan occupies the top two floors of the Yurakacho Denki Building. It's an ideal location, just a block from the Imperial Palace and two or three subway stops away from most important offices in central Tokyo. It boasts a bar and pub where a cold beer can still be had for a mere \$4 and a cheeseburger for \$8; a sushi bar, and a more formal dining room for those on an expense account. In addition, the club's library contains one of the largest collections in Japan of English-language books about Asia as well as an extensive clipping service. I used the library as a key resource when researching my own book about Japan in 1989.

The club has always been a respite from the maddening complexity of Tokyo, but one appreciates it even

more now that the yen is below 100 to the dollar. That makes Japan outrageously expensive: if you buy a continental breakfast for two at the Orchid Room in the Okura Hotel, for example, it costs \$50. For two. The sheer expen-

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New York Times/Times Fax

siveness of today's Tokyo means that foreigners can scarcely afford to go out at evening. The pressure is on to skip the late-night carousing and head home. The scene even at the FCCJ late in the evening is decidedly tame. There are very few guys in safari suits, with reporters' notebooks jutting from their pockets, having too much to drink.

More importantly, yen shock and the dramatic escalation in costs is forcing many news organizations to pare back on the number of expatriates based in Tokyo, to limit their cost of living adjustments, to cut back on the number of stringers, and in general to tighten up. That has put a real damper on the FCCJ's journalistic membership.

OPC members can obtain guest privileges by contacting one of the FCCJ's officers. It is not yet so automatic that you can merely walk in and present your OPC card. We'll work on that. —B.H.

GALUSKZA

(Continued from page 1)

must be starving. A well-dressed young Russian? Must be a gangster or, if female, a prostitute.

A look at history shows that many of those cliches are generated by confusion and impressions that are badly flawed. In the 1930s, for example, a Depression-weary world couldn't decide whether Stalin was someone to be admired for his herculean switch-over from a peasant to industrial society, or loathed for his utter brutality. Consequently, the public ended up ill-served by a mish-mash of reporting. "It doesn't matter what you say about Russia," chided the Oklahoma wit Will Rogers before he died in 1935, "it's always right."

Or take the Cold War. During and after Stalin's time, western correspondents were severely restricted. Phones were bugged and sources were harassed. So, the media came to rely on Sovietologists, those experts back in the states who figured out pecking orders by who stood above Lenin's Tomb on parade day.

Some were truly outstanding scholars. But in general, they failed. While defense budgets soared on their advice, they, in fact, grossly exaggerated

Soviet strength. Stunned after the empire unraveled as fast as it did, they spend their time today asking what they did wrong. "Journalists for their part," writes former Moscow correspondent David Remnick in a recent issue of *The New York Review of Books*, "do not torture themselves with such questions. Something about the trade allows us to dip into one area and then hustle off to another assignment, all the while forgetting that we were guilty of many of the same sins of the scholars and had at least as much influence."

Today there can be fewer excuses. Communist era restrictions are gone. The country is more accessible than ever. But why, then, the constant short-hand in the U.S. press that telescopes Russia into little more than a crime-ridden, collapsing, dangerous, ugly mess.

Part of it is the incredible pressure to spot instant trends. One newsmagazine quickly wrote off the economic reform effort last winter when radical reformers Yegor T. Gaidar and Boris Federov abruptly left the government. Yet, nine months later, almost nothing awful that the article predicted, such as hyperinflation, has come to pass.

Or it's plain bad timing. Last winter, after hard-liner Vladimir Zhirinovsky scored surprising successes in last

December's elections, a team of writers at another newsmagazine put together a solid, tough look at the budding politician. Problem was, the cover didn't run until mid-summer. By that time, many Russians were finding Zhirinovsky's antics tiresome and he was fading from the scope.

But to American readers, he still appeared a big threat.

Take economics. True, the infamous MMM pyramid scheme made for fascinating reading and viewing last summer. But not too many reporters note that Russia is selling off state-owned businesses at a rate that would make Margaret Thatcher dizzy. Or that on your next trip to Disney World, you could be joined by free-spending Russian tourists. Or that, in a few years, you could be seeing Texaco or Mobil competing with a new Russian Exxon.

What makes Russia so intriguing today isn't so much its instability, but the speed at which a new system is emerging. The U.S. public needs something other than a steady diet of cliches and sound bites from the media. Otherwise, they might wake up some day and find a new, powerful and strange country that they didn't see coming.

OPC PROTESTS ASSAULTS ON PRESS

(Continued from page 1)

your government has found a new opposition newspaper to oppress and attack, defying the free world's concept of liberty and justice.

"The new target, it seems, is *Özgür Ülke*, four of whose editors...Berivan Kutluay, Safyetin Tepe, Nevzat Bulut and Mustafa Aladag were arrested on August 10 during a raid by plainclothes officers of the Anti-Terror Branch of the police.

"For months, the target was *Özgür Gündem*, nine of whose journalists and 11 [of whose newspaper distributors] were murdered.... Many of the paper's editors and correspondents were arrested and tortured.

"Now, according to Amnesty International, there is a fear of torture for the *Özgür Ülke* journalists. We ask you to assure their safety and protection from ill-treatment."

TO: PRESIDENT SUHARTO OF INDONESIA

"The Overseas Press Club of America is deeply concerned by the June 21 shutdown of Indonesia's most influential newsweekly, *Tempo*, as well as *DeTik* and *Editor*.

"Furthermore, we deplore the violent dispersal of participants in three of four demonstrations protesting the closure of the three magazines, and the arrests of over 50 participants....

"We call on your government to rescind the banning orders against *Tempo*, *DeTik* and *Editor*. We also urge the immediate release of the arrested demonstrators and the dropping of charges against them."

TO: PRESIDENT SANI ABACHA OF NIGERIA

"The Overseas Press Club of America...is most concerned about the arrests of publisher Bashorun Moshood Abiola and editor-in-chief Bola Bolawole, and the ban on the publication of the *Concord Group* of newspapers and news magazines, as well as the newspaper *Punch*.

"Mr. Abiola, publisher of the *Concord Group*, has been arrested, brought

before a special High Court appointed by the military government and charged with 'treasonable felony.'

"Mr. Bola Bolawole, editor-in-chief of *Punch*, was placed under house arrest after your government's State Security Service raided the office of his independent newspaper which supports opposition groups....

"Respectfully, we urge you to lift the ban on the *Concord Group* and on *Punch*.... Also, release Mr. Abiola from prison, and Mr. Bolawola from the threat of house arrest."

TO: FIRST PRIME MINISTER OF CAMBODIA SAMDECH KROMPREAH NORODOM RANARIDDH

"An undeclared and violent war against journalists—those in Cambodia and those in the United States reporting on Cambodian news—appears to be under way, and the Overseas Press Club of America is most concerned by evidence pointing to the involvement of Cambodian officials.

"The OPC...strongly protests the latest acts of intimidation and violence against the press, including the assassination in Phnom Penh on Sept. 7 of 45-year-old Nonn Chan, director of *Samleng Yuveakchun Khmer* (Voice of the Youth) newspaper. This follows the killing on June 11 of *Antakarkum* (Intervention) editor-in-chief Chhom Mongkol Thou. We join other human rights groups in calling on your government to carry out an immediate and public investigation of these deaths....

"Also, your government closed down the journal *Prum Bayon* because it was accused of employing 'insulting language' toward government officials.... In another case, the Cambodian journal *Nahal* (The Universe) has been under relentless threats for publishing articles criticizing the King because of his relations with the Khmer Rouge.

"In the U.S., Diep Ly, publisher and editor of the Anaheim, Calif.-based newspaper, *Angkor Borei News*, said that he again had received warnings that he and his family would be harmed if and when they try to return to Phnom Penh. His paper has carried articles on the practice of torture and corruption in Cambodia.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(Continued from page 3)

on the lives of Americans. In that sense, I think our audience is hungry to understand how they can take advantage of opening markets, how the quality of their lives is affected by immigration from troubled regions, how they can respond to technological challenges from Japan, and how to safeguard against very real nuclear threats from the likes of North Korea. Problem is, those subjects often don't lend themselves to obvious picture or television ops.

That's why I'd like to suggest that perhaps our direction should be to shift toward covering more complex issues and trends that grip Americans, rather than flip-the-channel coverage of far-away crises that have little bearing. I don't think it helps our cause as journalists to focus huge amounts of time and resources on tribal warfare in Rwanda. Although it is all terribly shocking, there is not much America can do about it. It has the feeling of atrocity for atrocity's sake.

So the more that television attempts to turn something like that into live, round-the-clock coverage, the more it turns off the viewer. That seems to be the real heart of the dilemma—not what policy-makers think, but why aren't our readers and viewers and listeners paying more attention?

Ironically, despite all the sparring, government and media have a common interest: to manufacture crises that can attract the attention of increasingly disinterested audiences.

Could it be that we could better serve the public interest, as well as our own commercial interests, by doing a better job of finding out what our audience is really worried about?

I can't offer any final answers, only the conviction that this debate will build and that it is crucially important.

For those interested in hearing more, The Museum of Television & Radio, in cooperation with *Foreign Affairs*, will be hosting a five-part seminar series on the subject, "Television and Foreign Affairs." It's a top-notch line-up of people. The series runs from Oct. 24 through Oct. 28 at the museum located at 25 West 52nd St., New York. Contact number: (212) 621-6600.

Successful Philippines Night

The Club had a most successful event with Philippines Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo on Wednesday, Sept. 28. The timing was right. After years of being called the sick man of

Subic Bay and Clark Air Force Base.

The evening was also quite personal. Club members Victor Riesel, Roy Rowan, Norman Schorr, and Thomas Mechling all had known the speaker's father, Carlos Romulo, who held the position of foreign secretary for decades.

The younger Romulo also was presented with a letter from Doris Macauley, a club member who lives in Villefranche-sur-Mer, France. When Doris saw the notice of Romulo's appearance in September's OPC Bulletin, she dashed off a letter saying she and the elder Romulo had

known each other as broadcasters in the Philippines during World War II. She became a Japanese prisoner-of-war and later wrote a book called *Bread and Rice*. Carlos Romulo wrote the foreword, and helped launch the book at a party at the Algonquin in 1947!

The other happy coincidence of the evening was that Mechling is helping organize the 50th anniversary of MacArthur's dramatic landing at Leyte later in October. For details, call Tom Mechling: Washington Watch Editors, (301) 881-0030.



GERALDINE DE HAUGOUBART

Philippines Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo.

East Asia, the Philippines is finally fixing its infrastructure, taking down some tariff barriers, increasing its exports by 17% this year, freeing its foreign exchange of most controls, and attacking oligopolies in such important fields as banking and telecommunications. Economic growth increased 5.4% in the second quarter. "The Philippines is firmly back on the road of self-sustaining growth," Romulo said.

Moreover, President Clinton is scheduled to arrive in the Philippines on Nov. 12 en route to the APEC summit in Jakarta. It's the first time an American President will have set foot in the Philippines since U.S. forces left

FOUNDATION EXPANDS SCHOLARSHIPS

Two scholarships in the name of David R. Schweisberg, UPI's former bureau manager in Beijing, will be awarded in January by the OPC Foundation.

Contributions from Schweisberg's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Emanuel Schweisberg, and friends will enable the Foundation to increase from two to four the number of \$1,000 scholarships awarded to college students who aspire to careers as international journalists.

Another contribution of \$3,000 from The Correspondents Fund in New York will fund a previously established scholarship in memory of the late Alexander Kendrick, a former CBS journalist, for three years.

David Schweisberg, 39, died of a heart attack last November in Beijing, where he was highly regarded for his China coverage for the past six years.

College and university students in the U.S. may apply for the OPC scholarships by submitting a 500-word essay on an area of the world, or on an international topic that they feel deserves better coverage.

Invitations to submit essays went out in September to more than 200 schools, with a deadline of Dec. 2 for submissions. The four winners will be announced at a luncheon in Manhattan in late January.

The Overseas Press Club of America, Inc.
320 East 42nd Street, Mezzanine
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CLUB LUNCH WITH ALAN LEVY

founding editor-in-chief
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